

September 2019

# Newspaper clipping

Coale Parker

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/lwv\\_docs](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/lwv_docs)

---

## Recommended Citation

Parker, Coale, "Newspaper clipping" (2019). *Documents and clippings*. 1.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/lwv\\_docs/1](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/lwv_docs/1)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the League of Women Voters of Mississippi Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Documents and clippings by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).



Coast celebrates women's suffrage

# Taking off the yoke



DAVID PURDY/THE SUN HERALD

About 60 women and men, many in costumes from the 1920s, march up Biloxi's Lameuse Street on Saturday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Mississippi didn't ratify the 19th amendment until 1984.

## Marchers honor women's right to vote

By **COALE PARKER**  
THE SUN HERALD

■ **BILOXI** — The United States has never had a female president, and Mississippians have never elected a woman to the U.S. Congress.

Obviously, women's position in politics remains greatly unequal to men's. But that didn't dent the optimism of many of the 60 people who marched in Biloxi on Saturday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of women getting the right to vote.

Marion Hurst, 94, smiled from under the shade of her wide-brimmed hat, as she led the marchers from Biloxi Town Green to the George E. Ohr Arts and Cultural Center. One marcher exuberantly pumped a white parasol up and down to a rolling drum beat and did a Charlestonsque shuffle-walk toward the center.

"We just haven't taken the yoke off," said Hurst, yanking the imaginary restraint from her

neck.

And that's too bad, said Hurst of Gulfport, because there are problems in this country that only a woman can solve.

"Men are too close to politics," Hurst mused at a reception in the Ohr Center, where about 90 people gathered after the march. "I often think their hearts aren't in it. Women, they're closer to the family — their hearts are in it."

Why are there so few women in political office, then?

"That's our fault. I really think that," she said, her eyes perpetually wide, as if in a constant state of delight. "We're 51 percent of the population . . . You've just got to get out and fight."

Gigi Hiens of Gulfport agreed with Hurst.

"A lot of people say women are stronger now, but I think women are weaker now," Hiens said.

Please see **Suffrage**, B-3

### BY THE NUMBERS

■ On the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, some facts to consider:

▶ In 1994, 16 percent of candidates for open seats in the U.S. House and 11 percent in the Senate were women — both down from 1992.

▶ There have been 13 female governors (11 Democrats, two Republicans). N.J. Republican Christine Todd Whitman is the only sitting female governor.

▶ Of the top 10 states for women holding elective office — mayor, state-wide office, Congress — New Hampshire leads with 127, followed by California (84), Washington (69), Connecticut (61), Minnesota (59), Maryland (57), Illinois (56), Kansas and Vermont (55), Massachusetts (52), and Florida (47). Alabama has the fewest (9).



# Suffrage

*Continued from B-1*

"Women have a lot of power but they don't use it."

If someone tries to discriminate against a woman, the law is now on women's side and they will ultimately prevail, Hiens said. She held up a folded flier as if it were the metaphorical law.

"They could tell you you can't do something," Hiens said, jabbing at the flyer with her finger, "but you can say: 'What does it say? What does it

say?' "

A play put on at the reception about the 1873 trial of Susan B. Anthony made it clear that laws haven't always been on women's side.

Anthony was tried for voting. The judge declared Anthony incompetent to speak in her own defense. Then he fined her \$100 and the cost of the prosecution's legal expenses without allowing the jury to decide whether she was guilty.

The judge's act outraged many people because anyone who is charged with a crime has the constitutional right to a trial by jury. Eventually, that outrage helped women get the

right to vote.

However, Anthony was dead when women got the right to vote 47 years later.

At the end of the play, a woman acting as Anthony approached the audience and said, "As we fought for your right to vote, you must fight to be free . . . Good day and remember to vote this Tuesday."